

State Senator • Irma Clark-Coleman

Serving the 3rd District Constituents in Detroit, Dearborn & River Rouge

Happy 75th Birthday Dearborn

The international City of Dearborn is celebrating its 75th birthday this year and Sen. Clark-Coleman marked the occasion by honoring more than 200 “original” residents who have lived in Dearborn since its founding. Here are some Dearborn facts:



Senator Clark-Coleman presents Dearborn Mayor Michael Guido with a Resolution honoring Dearborn's 75th Birthday.

- Dearborn was first settled in 1786. It is the hometown of Henry Ford, automotive innovator and builder of one of America's most beautiful and impressive homes.
- Dearborn is home to Ford Motor Company and institutions of higher learning such as University of Michigan - Dearborn, Davenport University, and Henry Ford Community College.
- Dearborn is becoming a major Southeastern Michigan

employment and educational center and boasts a population of more than 97,775 people.

- Dearborn's population represents more than 80 different nationalities, cultures, and ethnicities.
- Dearborn is home to the world-renowned Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, the Automotive Hall of Fame, Fairlane Town Center, and Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center.

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Sen. Clark-Coleman (far right) joins Gov. Granholm, Insurance Commissioner Linda Watters (2nd from right), and other state legislators as they announce proposed rule changes prohibiting insurers from using credit scores to determine personal insurance rates.

A Note From Senator Irma Clark-Coleman



Dear Constituent:

As we quickly approach summer break, I wish you and your families safe travel and an enjoyable time together. As I look forward to spending more time with my own family as well as with all of you at various activities within the District, my attention focuses on the budget and how decisions that are being made now will impact our everyday lives.

Currently, we are about half-way through the budget-setting process. Proposed cuts to our schools, and social & health programs are troubling, but there is hope on the horizon. I believe that, under the leadership of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, we can pass a budget that is both fiscally responsible and protective of the programs we value most.

Our success will be based on a collective resolve to more closely manage our personal budgets and to become more politically active. You must pay closer attention to those who create and administer laws at both the local and state levels.

Please use the information on the front of this newsletter to contact my office with any concerns that you may have. You have chosen me to serve you and I am at your service. I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Irma Clark-Coleman".

Irma Clark-Coleman
State Senator • 3rd District

Help Refuel Metro Detroit's Blood Supply

The American Red Cross needs our help. Metro Detroit's blood supply is low and needs replenishing. Current reserves equate to about three days' worth of critical blood types (Type O and Type B). Acceptable levels should stock a five- to seven-day supply, according to the Red Cross.

Type O is universal; everyone can use it. Type B is more prevalent among African Americans and many other ethnic groups including Middle Easterners, Italians, and Ukrainians. Keeping safe blood inventory levels is crucial to community preparedness.

Let's keep Metro-Detroit ready by donating blood at local Red Cross Donor Centers.

Two local centers are:

Dearborn

Village Plaza
23400 Michigan Avenue
Tuesday - Thursday
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

NEW LOCATION!

Detroit

7910 W. Outer Drive
Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Top 10 Reasons to Donate Blood

1. It's easy and convenient.
2. You get free juice and cookies.
3. You will weigh less – one pint less! Your body will replenish what you donate.
4. It's something you can spare.
5. You don't have to do any heavy lifting as long as you wear the bandage.
6. You will walk a little taller afterwards.
7. Your donation will help ensure that blood is there when someone needs it.
8. It's something you can do that the rich and famous do.
9. You will be someone's hero.
10. It's the right thing to do.

River Rouge Plant Gets ISO Certification

Sen. Clark-Coleman recently joined officials in celebrating River Rouge Power Plant's ISO 14001 Certification. This means that the DTE company complies with environmental laws and ensures environmental safety near and around its plant.

A completely voluntary program, certification standards and guidelines are set by an international governing body that helps companies identify and manage their effects on the environment. River Rouge's program is accredited by the only company authorized to issue ISO standards in America.

The new certification fulfills River Rouge's pledge to conduct regular environmental audits of programs and operations. As a result, the power plant will provide more efficient service to the public it serves.

Governor Appoints Senator Clark-Coleman to Guide Nation’s Education Policy

Gov. Granholm recently appointed Sen. Clark-Coleman to the Education Commission of the States. She is the sole legislative gubernatorial appointee.

In naming the Senator, Gov. Granholm said, “Michigan will be well served by Senator Irma Clark-Coleman’s appointment to the National Education Commission.” She continued, “Senator Clark-Coleman’s leadership on education issues in Michigan and her background as a school board member give her great insight into the work that is needed to make

our schools world class places of learning.”

The Commission will bridge the gap between good ideas and effective education policy. Part of its responsibilities includes designing communications strategies that will strengthen public understanding of each state’s education improvement goals. Commissioners are also entrusted with promoting relationships between

state policymakers and the education community at both the state and local levels.



Senator Clark-Coleman poses with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm at the swearing-in ceremony.

Senator Clark-Coleman’s Legislation (partial listing)

Senate Resolution

SR 201

Urges the Congress of the United States to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to ensure national security without eroding civil liberties.

Senate Bills

SB 632

Requires auto insurers to provide written explanations to policyholders when their insurance is cancelled at the time of renewal.

SB 638

Permits students enrolled in theology, divinity, or religious education programs to receive state scholarships and grant monies.



SB 729-732

Bill package that moves MEAP administration back to the Department of Education from the Department of the Treasury. Gov. Granholm did so by an Executive Order.

SB 976

Prohibits electric utility suppliers from shutting off the utilities of senior citizens, during the heating season, who are enrolled in a heating assistance program.

Home Foreclosures Averted With Information

Responding to Wayne County’s efforts to repossess occupied homes for delinquent taxes, Sen. Clark-Coleman sent a letter to residents in District 3 whose names appeared on the list. People in Detroit, Dearborn, and River Rouge were positioned to lose their homes, in some cases, for as little as \$200.

Sen. Clark-Coleman’s letter informed residents that their homes were due to be foreclosed and listed available hotline phone numbers. Some homeowners contacted the

county and settled the issues surrounding their non-payments.

In other cases, officials had reassessed properties without the owners’ knowledge, causing tax payments to increase. As a result, homeowners fell delinquent because of unpaid taxes.

Last year, more than 2,900 properties were sold at the county auction. If you or someone you know faces this problem, contact the Wayne County Property Tax Hotline at 313-224-5990 or the Legal Aid & Defender Association at 877-964-4700, ext. 6467.

City	# of Homes on Foreclosure List
Detroit	449
Dearborn	21
River Rouge	29



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District College Gets Job Funds

State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman applauded the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and its newest effort to help workers keep their jobs. The MEDC recently awarded a \$1.3 million job training grant to Dearborn-based Ford Motor Co. to retrain a portion of its workforce at Henry Ford Community College.

“I am elated to see that the state is reacting to the rapidly changing job market and is providing citizens with additional job training to solidify their futures,” Sen. Clark-Coleman said.

“What’s more is that Henry Ford Community College has demonstrated its ability to provide excellent job training programs by connecting with students from every walk of life,” she added.

The state legislature appropriated \$10 million to the MEDC in Fiscal Year 2004 to administer its job training program, referred to as Economic Development Job Training (EDJT). The legislation gave priority in awarding such grants—partially based on demonstrated need—to train, create, or retain high-wage, high-skilled jobs.



Lighthouse Legacy

The City of River Rouge is planning to celebrate Michigan’s newest lighthouse, No. 117, on Saturday, May 15, 2004. The 35-foot structure, built entirely by volunteers, sits between a steel company and a power plant.

Called the Mariners Memorial Lighthouse, the new construction boasts a spiral staircase and a copper-sheeted roof with an American eagle weathervane on top. Interestingly it was built in the backyard of River Rouge Mayor Greg Joseph.

The new lighthouse is a tribute to the sailors of the Great Lakes and to the city’s rich shipbuilding history. The event will take place at Belanger Park. Sen. Clark-Coleman hopes to see you there!

Clark-Coleman Supports Dearborn Schools

One day prior to nine Dearborn schools being placed on a list of non-performing schools, Sen. Clark-Coleman, with the support of the Dearborn Federation of Teachers union and school officials, intervened and seven were removed from the list.

Incorrect data, including test scores and other information, had been calculated in assessing the schools’ performances. The Department of Education, at Sen. Clark-Coleman’s urging, reviewed the data and made the necessary adjustments.

“The change in reporting not only affects schools, it impacts

property values and the stability of the city,” Sen. Clark-Coleman said. She applauded the teachers’ union and Dearborn Public Schools Superintendent John Artis for their passion and concern for their students.

Mr. Artis praised the Senator’s efforts. “Senator Clark-Coleman ensured that we got the help we needed to get these problems corrected and that our schools be held appropriately accountable,” he said.

School officials are working toward improving the remaining two schools on the list.



Local students visit with Senator Clark-Coleman at the State Capitol.